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Ward 5 Newsletter

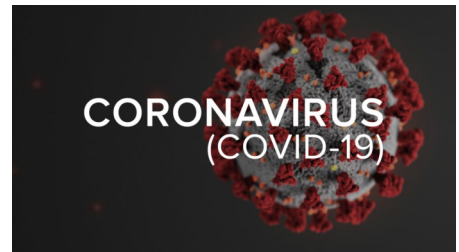
Tucsonaz.gov/ward5

March 2020

Dear Friends:

I am writing this letter when Tucson, Pima County, Arizona, this nation and the world, faces a time of crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has made people sick, taken lives and disrupted many facets of our society, as we know it. In this nation, our federal government is taking steps to try to deal with the Coronavirus, with testing, medical equipment, research on potential vaccines and medications.



Individually, we need to take steps as well:

Simple things like wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. It has been suggested that the distance should be six feet.

Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn what to do if you are sick. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

Throw used tissues in the trash.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

On the national, state, county and municipal levels, including the City of Tucson, state of emergencies have been declared, with conditions set out, in an effort to try to deal with the Coronavirus.

The City's declaration has prohibited gatherings of more than 50 people, dining in at a restaurant and temporarily closed businesses where people gather, such as movie theaters, bars, night clubs, gyms and bowling alleys in an effort to have social distancing to lower the rate of infection from the Coronavirus.

Schools, ranging from the University of Arizona to elementary schools have made changes on how they will teach their students. Some schools will only have online courses, while others are still determining whether the respective school year will be continuing,

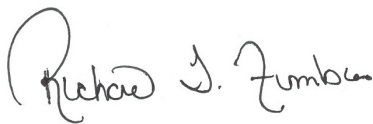
The City of Tucson is also in the process of finalizing a plan for how city government will function during these times.

Many businesses in our community have stepped up to help people, by waiving late fees, shut off notices, foreclosures and evictions during this time of crisis and for which I thank them.

Until when we win this battle against the Coronavirus, our lives will be different. Neighborhood meetings and other city meetings have been canceled during this crisis.

During this time, the Ward 5 Council Office, as well as other City Council offices, will be closed to public access and walk in service. The Ward 5 Council Office can be reached by phone at (520) 791-4231 or Email: ward5@tucsonaz.gov.

This special edition of the Ward 5 newsletter will go over what changes have been made, lists of service providers as well as other aspects that are a part of our lives. Thank you. Be safe and stay healthy.



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember

Services in Tucson

My office has received many calls and Emails from constituents asking question about reaching various service providers, government and other organizations that work to help our community. With this time of crisis. Here is the list:

Emergency Services in Tucson

Tucson Fire Department

Tucson Fire Department Headquarters
300 S Fire Central Place Tucson, AZ 85701

Main Number: (520) 791-4512

Tucson Police Department (TPD)

Tucson Police Department – (Main Station) (520) 791-4444
 270 S Stone Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701

Utility Companies

Southwest Gas Emergency (520) 746-1076
 Water Department Emergency (520) 791-4133
 Tucson Electric Power (520) 623-3451
 Pima County Sewer Emergency (520) 724-3400

Rent & Utility Assistance

Tucson Urban League (520) 791-9522 ext. 2
 3425 E Grant Rd #101, Tucson, AZ 85716
 Monday – Thursday 8am-11am

Pima County Community Action Agency (520) 724-2667
 Monday – Friday 8:30am – 10:30am

Interfaith Community Services (520) 297-6049
 Address: 2820 W. Ina Road Tucson, AZ 85714
 Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Portable Practical Educational Preparation (PPEP) (520) 622-3553
 802 East 46th Street Tucson, AZ 85713
 Monday – Friday 1pm – 4pm

Chicanos Por La Causa (520) 882-0018
 1525 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705
 Monday – Wednesday 2pm – 4pm

Food Assistance

Caridad Community Kitchen (520) 882-5641
 845 N Main Ave, Tucson, AZ 85705
 Monday – Friday 8am-4pm

Community Food Bank (520) 622-0525
 3003 S. Country Club Rd.
 Tucson, AZ 85713
 Monday – Friday 8am-4:30pm

The Tucson Neighborhood Food Pantry (520) 777-9629
 5707 E 22nd St, Tucson, AZ 85710
 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 4-6pm

Christ Church United Methodist Food Bank (520) 795-3624
655 N Craycroft Rd, Tucson, AZ 85711
Monday – Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

St. Paul's Food Bank (520) 296-1927
8051 E Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85710
Monday – Friday 9am-11:30am

Interfaith Community Services Food Bank
The ICS Food Bank
Address: 2820 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741 (520) 297-6049
Monday – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Clothes Emergency

Salvation Army Family Store (520) 722-6525
6715 E. Tanque Verde Tucson, AZ, 85715
Monday – Saturday 9am-7pm; Sunday 10am-6pm

Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona – Headquarters (520) 623-5174
1940 E Silverlake Rd #405, Tucson, AZ 85713
Monday – Friday 8am-4:30pm

Other Emergency Services

Community Bridges, Inc. (CBI) (520) 323-1312
250 S. Toole Ave.

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona (520) 903-9000
330 N. Commerce Park Loop, Suite 200

Pima County One-Stop Career Center (520) 724-7700
2797 E. Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ

Old Pueblo Community Services (520) 546-0122
4501 E 5th St., Tucson, AZ

Salvation Army Hospitality House (520) 622-5411
1002 N. Main Ave., Tucson, AZ

St. Francis Homeless Shelter (570) 406-5300
601 E Fort Lowell Rd, Tucson, AZ

Emerge! Center (520) 795-4266
24/7 Domestic Violence Crisis Line

Sister Jose Women's Center 1050 S Park Ave, Tucson, AZ	(520) 909-3905
Tucson Police Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Crisis Response Center	(520) 837-7423
Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH)	(520) 784-5328
TPD Homeless Outreach Team	(520) 837-7217
State of Arizona COVID-19 Hotline	2-1-1
City of Tucson COVID-19 Hotline	(520) 791-2540
The Warm Line	(520) 770-9909

How COVID-19 is Spread

COVID-19 spreads primarily the same way the common cold or flu spreads – through respiratory droplets produced when someone coughs or sneezes.

People who are most at risk of infection with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (within about 6 feet) with someone who has the disease. People are most contagious when they are symptomatic (the sickest).

Some spread of the virus might be possible before a person has symptoms, although this is not the main way disease spreads.

What we can do as individuals to prevent spread of COVID-19:

We can take the very same measures necessary to prevent flu and other illnesses that are currently in our community:

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available;

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;

Stay home when you are sick and avoid close contact with people who are sick;

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Reid Park Zoo Update

In consultation with City of Tucson officials and following the lead of state and local health officials, Reid Park Zoo has made the decision to temporarily close to the public through Tuesday, March 31 to further support community efforts to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. We are also closing our Asian Lantern Festival and have postponed other scheduled events through April 2020 as listed on our website.



Zoo operations staff including animal care teams will continue working as scheduled to provide vital care to our animals. At this time, the Zoo is well-stocked on supplies of essential food and medical supplies for the animals, a move it made several weeks ago in preparation for potential closure. During the closure, the Zoo will continue increased cleaning and sanitation measures for all offices, visitors, and animal areas as well as disease avoidance protocol with all staff who are working.

Community Food Bank Update

As we respond to the health concerns rising from the spread of COVID-19 the Community Food Bank has made some changes at the main warehouse of the Community Food Bank. Drive through distribution has started and takes place at 3003 S. Country Club during our regular pantry hours. This is in response to health experts saying we should minimize personal contact to help slow the spread of the novel Coronavirus. We are putting extra resources and planning into this change.



Because of the volume of the people we serve, you may have noticed traffic backups on Country Club. We will do our best to make this traffic move smoothly and quickly. Please contact the Community Food Bank directly at (520) 622-0525 if you have any questions. We thank you for your understanding as we all do what we can in these challenging times.

Tucson Water & Tucson Electric Power Suspending Disconnects During COVID-19 Crisis

During the current health crisis that is also affecting many people financially, Tucson Electric Power (TEP) says it is suspending service disconnections and late fees until further notice. The company is also helping customers with payment extensions or enrollment in short-term assistance and bill discount programs.

Tucson Water also announced last week that it will not disconnect potable water service for non-payment and re-connect those who had their service shut off. Late fees will not be assessed, but customers ultimately will be responsible for paying for all water service received during this time.

Service Providers Need Help

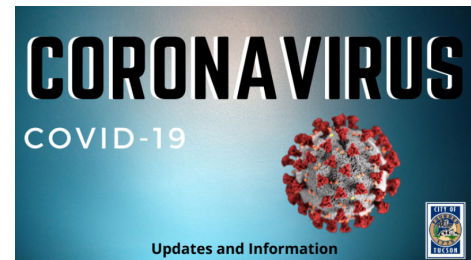
With the COVID-19 emergency ongoing, Tucson's service providers, who help those less fortunate and in need, are in need themselves. Sister Jose's Women Center, 909-3905, is in need of cleaning supplies and volunteer help. Casa Maria, 624-0312, is in need of food donations. Pima Animal Control, 724-5900, is in need of foster families for animals and volunteers. Both Old Pueblo Community Services, 546-0122 and Primavera 623-5111, need cleaning supplies and other items. Please call a service provider and help out our community during this time.

COVID-19 211 State Hotline

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey announced that a new statewide hotline will provide answers for Coronavirus concerns in both English and Spanish. The COVID-19 Hotline is funded with \$2 million provided by the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The hotline is administered by 2-1-1 Arizona and the Crisis Response Network and will offer a place to answer questions and concerns from Arizona residents about COVID-19. The hotline will operate seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and can be reached by calling 2-1-1 while an individual is located in Arizona.

City COVID-19 Hot Line

The City has setup a public information hotline to answer questions regarding City service interruptions and closures as a result of our response to COVID-19. This hotline is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. After hours callers will have the option to send an email inquiry to comments@tucsonaz.gov or leave a voice message that hotline staff will respond to the next day. The hotline number is (520) 791-2540.



City of Tucson Economic Initiatives Launches Effort To Help During COVID-19 Crisis

The City of Tucson Economic Initiatives Office has launched an effort to help small businesses out during the COVID-19 crisis. They have launched a small business hotline, (520) 837-4100, for which people can call in questions for which the Economic Initiative's Office will answer and also to help businesses out during this time. Also, Economic Initiatives has launched a website, connecttucson.com, for which business owners can also get more information and questions answered.

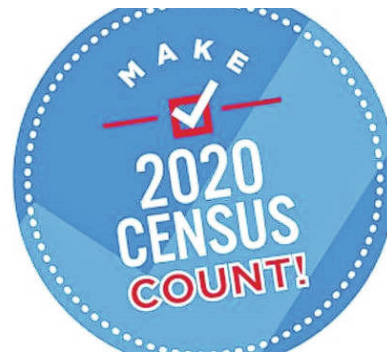
Census Day Is April 1

Households have received invitations to respond to the 2020 Census. People can respond online, by phone, or by mail to state where they live as of April 1, 2020.

When people respond to the census, their answers are kept anonymous and are used only to produce statistics. The census takes place once every 10 years.

Responses help determine the number of seats each state has in Congress and guide how nearly \$700 billion in federal funding is spent in communities each year. It's estimated up to \$3,000 per person, per year is at stake for Arizona.

Why we need to do the Census is to make sure that Tucson is counted and gets its share of federal funds for roads, schools and programs, as well as its representation in Congress. In 2010, Tucson had an under-count in the Census and we lost \$64 million in federal funding for programs. For 2020, be heard and be counted in the Census.



Transit Update

The City of Tucson will no longer charge fares on Sun Tran, Sun Link, or Sun Van beginning Saturday, March 21.



Sun Link will operate on summer hours through the end of March. Sun Van and Sun Tran routes will not be modified at

this time. Transit is an essential service and will remain available during this time. For the safety of our drivers, riders will enter and exit the bus from the rear access door. A yellow line and rope have been placed behind the driver to help promote social distancing. In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, we ask that the public only use transit for essential services. When utilizing the service, please practice six feet social distancing.

To protect public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19, Sun Tran has closed its Special Services Office until March 31. Normal bus schedules continue, but passengers are asked to observe safe social distancing of at least six feet away from each other when possible, and only use the rear door to enter and exit the bus. Non-ambulatory passengers who need a lift can board at the front of the bus. The Sun Link streetcar has reduced hours of operation to its summer schedule. The streetcar will end its route at 10 p.m. on Thursdays and at midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Hours of operation do not change Monday through Wednesday and on Sunday.

Sun Tran is responsible for oversight of the contractor required to maintain and clean the 2,200 bus stops in the Tucson area. Sun Tran will work with the contractor to ensure the stops are power-washed when necessary and free of litter, including cigarette butts. If you see overflowing trash cans, litter, bugs, vandalism, graffiti, or homeless camps at a bus stop, call (520) 792-9222 to report the location. You can also email SunTranInfo@tucsonaz.gov and include pictures if you wish.

Reduced Service and Operations at City Court

To protect the staff and public and to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, Tucson City Court is instituting operational changes. This started on March 20, there will be limited in-person access at the Court building until further notice. People seeking injunctions or appearing for related hearings are allowed in the building, but attendance is limited to counsel, court staff, law enforcement, and interpreters.



The same restrictions apply to Domestic Violence Court and Mental Health Court, which both remain open. Attendance of any others is prohibited and will only be permitted with approval from the assigned judge. Initial appearances will continue at the jail.

Tucson Parks And Recreation Announces Closures

All City recreation centers and aquatics facilities are closed through the end of March. All aquatic, youth, SchoolzOut Camps, and senior programming are also canceled. All leisure classes scheduled will be delayed by a week and will begin March 29. There will be no classes held on Monday, March 30, due to the César Chávez holiday. The leisure class sessions will be extended by one week to accommodate this change. The City will reassess these policies and make a decision as to what will happen in April.



Free Meals To All Children 18 And Under at TUSD and SUSD

TUSD is offering free Grab-and-Go Mobilized Meals across TUSD via 12 bus routes making stops at 113 locations between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. Each bus route will include stops at school bus bays and existing bus stops where free Grab-and-Go meals will be provided. Each bus route will stop at the designated school bus bay or bus stop for 10 minutes to provide the Grab-and-Go meals. One breakfast and one lunch will be provided to each child present. *Stop times may vary depending on traffic and weather conditions. If you have questions or need help finding a location, please call Food Services at (520) 225-4700.

The Sunnyside Unified School District is offering free grab-and-go breakfast and lunch to all children ages 1-18. Pick up is available Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the following schools: Craycroft Elementary School, 5455 E. Littleton Road, Drexel Elementary School, 801 E. Drexel Road, Elvira Elementary School, 250 W. Elvira Road, Los Amigos Technology Academy, 2200 E. Drexel Road, Mission Manor Elementary School, 600 W. Santa Rosa Street. These meals are free to all children 18 and under. There is no eligibility requirements--all children 18 and under can receive these free meals. Please note that per Federal Meal Program requirements, children must be present to receive meals. Meals cannot be provided for additional children that are not present.

Clean Up After Your Pet

Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter.

When walking your dog out in our community, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie with you to pick up waste with and then dispose of it properly. Tucson Code Chapter 4-102 says that it shall be unlawful for the owner or person having custody of any dog to fail immediately to move and dispose of in a sanitary manner any solid waste deposited by such dog on public property or deposited on private property without the consent of the person in control of the property.



This section shall not apply to blind persons, persons with mobility disabilities, or police officers or other law enforcement officers accompanied by police dogs while on emergency. The fine ranges from \$50 to \$750 plus court surcharges. By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in our community and the spread of illnesses.



SENIOR SHOPPING HOURS

BELOW ARE LOCATIONS OFFERING HOURS DEDICATED TO SENIOR AND VULNERABLE POPULATION ONLY SHOPPING.

AJ's Fine Foods: Wednesdays 5-6 a.m. (65+)

Albertsons: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-9 a.m.

Bashas: Wednesdays 6-7 a.m. (65+)

Cardenas: Every day 7-8 a.m.

Costco: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8-9 a.m. (60+)

Dollar General: First hour every day

Food City: Wednesdays 5-6 a.m. (65+)

Safeway: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-9 a.m.

Target: First hour every Wednesday

Walmart: First hour every Tuesday (60+)

Whole Foods: First hour every day (60+)

